



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS CZECH FUGITIVE IN ATLANTA METRO AREA *Highly Specialized Atlanta Team Part of New National Enforcement Strategy*

ATLANTA –U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today, took into custody 37 year-old Peter Urban, a citizen of the Czech Republic, following his arrest Monday by ICE's Atlanta Fugitive Operations Unit at his home in Duluth, Georgia.

Urban was arrested for refusing to follow through on his final order of removal issued by an immigration judge in 2004. He is currently being held at the Atlanta Pretrial Detention Center awaiting removal from the country. Urban entered the United States as a visitor in November of 1999 but failed to leave the country when his visa expired.

John Mata, ICE Detention and Removal (DRO) Field Office Director for Georgia, commended the Atlanta team for the arrest of Urban. "Under the new national immigration enforcement strategy this specialized unit was created, and in a short period of time we have seen dramatic results in the apprehension and removal of fugitive aliens. The 9/11 Commission stressed the need for restoration of integrity to our nation's immigration system. This Atlanta team serves a catalyst in that restoration process by locating, arresting and removing fugitive aliens like Urban."

The Atlanta Fugitive Operations Unit is one of 18 units nationwide. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2005 they have arrested more than 305 fugitive aliens in the Atlanta area. In fiscal year 2004, ICE removed over 3,392 illegal aliens from the Atlanta area; 2,105 of which were criminal aliens. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2005, ICE has removed 64 Czech Republic nationals; 55 of which were criminal removals.

DRO's National Fugitive Operations Program (NFPO) mission is to apprehend individuals who have been ordered deported from the United States, but who have failed to report for removal. From March 1 through Sept. 30, 2003, when ICE began tracking fugitive apprehensions, DRO apprehended 3,409 fugitives with final orders of removal. By comparison, in the same seven-month period of fiscal year 2004, DRO apprehended 7,239 fugitives with final orders of removal, an increase of 112 percent over the fiscal year 2003 period. Total fiscal year 2004 apprehensions of fugitives were 11,063.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.